

DANA ROHRBACHER

48th District, California

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0548  
(202) 225-2415

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 Main Street, Suite 380  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-8118  
(714) 960-6483

<http://rohrbacher.house.gov>



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

July 11, 2018

Committees:

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific

**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Subcommittee on Space  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Subcommittee on Environment

Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
Office of the Secretary, United States Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building, 2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

I am writing to draw your attention to the peace agreement signed in Asmara, Eritrea this past weekend by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia and President Isaias Afwerki of Eritrea. This historic milestone ends the conflict between their two nations, a tremendous benefit to both nations, the region, and freedom loving people everywhere. It is a bold step taken by two courageous leaders. The images of PM Abiy and President Isaias embracing and of Ethiopians and Eritreans welcoming the peace agreement, touched the hearts of millions of people around the world. Like Anwar Sadat, who went to Jerusalem in 1977 seeking peace, Prime Minister Abiy took a great risk in reaching out to Eritrea and accepting the final and binding terms of the border decision. Rightly, President Isaias and the Eritrean people warmly received PM Abiy and accepted the offer to end decades of conflict.

Already the dividends of the peace agreement are bearing fruit with the telephone communication services, Ethiopian Airlines services, re-opening of embassies in both capitals and the use of Eritrean ports by Ethiopia ready to resume. The United States and its allies should applaud this peace pact and help both nations forge a better future for their peoples.

The same day as the signing of the peace agreement in Asmara, the Ethiopian PM also submitted a letter to the visiting UN Secretary General António Guterres, in Addis Ababa, officially requesting the UN Security Council lift the sanctions that it had imposed on Eritrea in 2009. I also call on our government to lift all sanctions on Eritrea and help forge a new bilateral relationship, including an exchange of ambassadors, that benefits our shared interests.

PM Abiy will also be visiting the United States on an un-official capacity to meet with Ethiopian-Americans on July 28 in Washington D.C. and on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles. I hope we can provide him all the necessary protocol recognition as is possible.

Considering the assassination attempt that was carried on in Addis Ababa against the new Ethiopian PM a few weeks ago due to his visionary reforms, I hope we can also provide any Secret Service and other security support allowable during unofficial visits by high-level foreign officials.

Please also find attached a letter I wrote to the new Ethiopian PM on behalf of my constituents, the Berhane Gebremedhin family, who immigrated to California from Ethiopia after a Communist regime took power there forty years ago. Just resolution of their property claim would underscore the honest and positive nature of Ethiopia's new reformist government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Rohrabacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

Cc: Ambassador John Bolton

DANA ROHRABACHER

48th District, California

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0548  
(702) 225-2415

DISTRICT OFFICE:

101 Main Street, Suite 380  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-8118  
(714) 960-6483

<http://rohrabacher.house.gov>



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Committees

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Subcommittee on Space  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Subcommittee on Environment

May 16, 2018

His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
P.O. Box 1031  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Please accept my best wishes for putting Ethiopia on a better path. Correcting the corruption of previous governments will be a major step in the right direction.

I am writing to encourage you to start your reforms by correcting the unjust nationalization by the communist Derg regime and following EPRDF government of the National Alcohol and Liquor Factory (NALF), which is the property of Mr. Berhane Gebremedhin.

The Ministry of Public Enterprises (MPE) is presently attempting to sell the National Alcohol and Liquor Factory (NALF) per Bid Notice No. 003/2018 (Encl. I). NALF, formerly known as the Elias Pappasinos Alcohol and Liquor Factory, is owned by Mr. Gebremedhin, a U.S. citizen. Please be aware that the Ethiopian Privatization Agency, MPE's predecessor, mandated the return of illegally expropriated properties to their rightful owners. Mr. Gebremedhin's ownership rights have already been adjudicated (Encl. II) and recognized by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a federal entity of the United States government.

Mr. Gebremedhin is presently in Addis Ababa and requesting to personally meet with you to recover his company and assets. Time is of the essence as the MPE has illegally placed Mr. Gebremedhin's property on the open market for sale. This illegally confiscated property should be returned to its rightful owner.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

Cc: Congressman Chris Smith, Chairman Subcommittee Africa

Congressman Michael H. Coffman, Chairman Subcommittee House Armed Services  
Ambassador Michael A. Raynor, U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia  
Mr. Ray Washburne, President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation  
Ms. Andrea M. Gacki, Acting Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control  
Senator James Inhofe, Member Senate Committee Commerce, Science & Transportation  
Congressman Edward Royce, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee  
Mr. Berhane Gebremedhin

Encl. I: Invitation to bid for the full acquisition of the enterprise (bid notice 003/2018)  
Encl. II: The Ethiopian Privatization Agency meeting minutes (plus translation)